

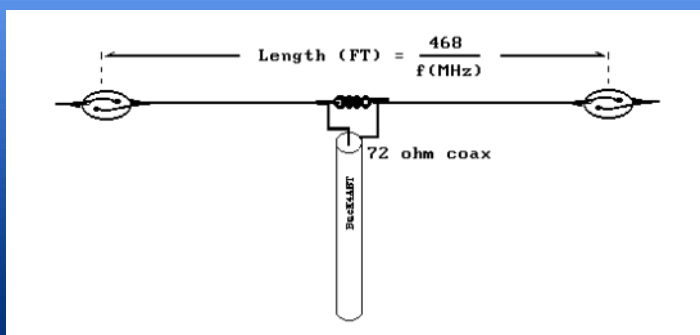
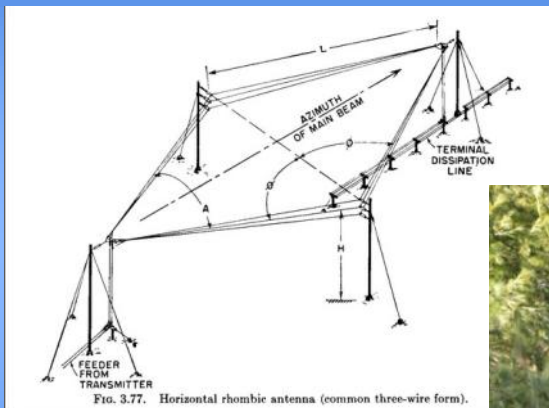


# The GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
 March 2015 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 24, Issue 3



## Antennas Make The Difference



What kind of antenna fits your needs?

# Message from the President

I would first like to formally welcome and congratulate our two new GARS officers. Our new Secretary is Nick Doemland, AB4CQ and new Program Manager is Nick Nikeley, N0NCQ. Please welcome them and thank them for their service to our club. The executive committee is insisting that I now be referred to as Nick3 and that I change my call sign from XYY to XCQ! But seriously, if you are interested in lending your skills to help serve GARS please let me or any of the club officers or committee chairs know. The more of us who are actively involved in club activities the easier the job is.



*"Contrary to some beliefs, Amateur Radio is a growing hobby with many new and exciting facets to excite and challenge all ages and technical levels."*

Why did you become a Ham? Was it fascination with wireless communication? Or did you grow up in the 70s during the CB radio craze? Did you have a parent or family member who was a Ham and you always wondered what they were up to? Maybe you were interested in being prepared for emergency situations. You may have heard about Hams helping out during hurricanes or other natural disasters. Were you involved in radio communications in an armed service? Maybe you sent Morse code from a telegraph key strapped to your leg in a Jeep! Or maybe you just like looking at fancy knobs, glowing dials, switches and buttons. Are you an electronics hobbyist at heart and like building and modifying things? Are you a pilot and got lured into learning more about aviation communications? We have all taken different paths but in the end the amateur radio hobby draws us together. GARS is the place to be for sharing our common and diverse interests. I hope all of you reading this get actively involved in our activities this year and I'm looking forward to working and sharing those interests with all of you!

If you are reading this and do not yet have your license or know someone who is interested

please take advantage of our Ham-Cram technician license class this month. GARS sponsors two or three of these classes a year and it is an excellent method for training and getting your first level of license. Please sign up on our web site home page at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org). GARS also sponsors a volunteer examination session once a month at Gwinnett fire station #5.

Other clubs also sponsor sessions throughout the year and a convenient schedule can be found at the end of this newsletter. Contrary to some beliefs, Amateur Radio is a growing hobby with many new and exciting facets to excite and challenge all ages and technical levels.

As most of you know by now we are in the process of making some necessary changes to the repeater system. Remote receivers, Echo-link, 6 meters, and remote linking on 147.075 are currently unavailable pending the repeater move to Snellville. We ask that everyone please be patient until a permanent solution is put into place. Also the Bogan site is experiencing a temporary power outage as a result of the ice storm. This is affecting the packet nodes BUF and BUFGA as well as the APRS Digi and the 443.775 repeater. Power should be restored by the publishing of this newsletter.

73s,

*Rick,* N4XYY

***"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]

# GARS February Meeting

## “Gwinnett ARES and How *You* Can Help ”

By Hal Collier, W4IGE, EC for Gwinnett County ARES

*Tuesday March 10, 2015*

*6:30 pm*

**Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1**

**690 Airport Road**

**Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

[Directions](#)

**See Page 16 for April Meeting Info**

### **Check out the following:**

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Amateur Enforcement	Pg 11
GARS Survey	Pg 13
QST—March 1950	Pg 17

### **GARS Communications**

2 Meter Repeater  
147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone

APRS  
144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

D-Star  
WD4STR  
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)  
440.550 + (5 MHz)

Main Repeater Site  
Oak Street,  
Lawrenceville

2 Meter Repeater  
147.255(+) MHz  
107.2 PL Tone

6 Meter Repeater  
53.110 (-1 MHz)  
No PL tone

70 Cm Repeaters  
444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL Tone  
442.100(+)  
100 PL Tone

Backup Repeater Site  
Lanier Mountain,  
Snellville

**NOTE!** Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC has been nominated as the Education Chair for his efforts with the Science Teachers Conference. Ralph is working to coordinate mentors for 4 teachers from the Gwinnett area.

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by email to n4gyn@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN  
770-689-6620 or [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)





# What's Happening?

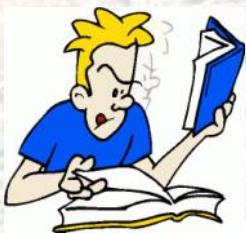
## **Technician Class HamCram Coming! March 21st 2015**

Attendees must pre-register. Registration and more information available on the GARS website: [HERE](#)

This is an entry level study session. You will need study materials in advance of the session. We use the Technician Class by Gordon West. It is available from many sources including Ham Radio Outlet in Doraville. There is no charge for the class, but there is a \$20.00 charge (\$14.00 exam fee, \$6.00 for lunch). *There is a no refund policy for no shows.* Read more to find the link to register for the class.

**Location is at the EOC , 800 Hi-hope Road Lawrenceville.**

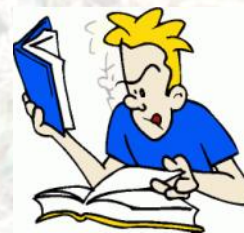
[W5YI](#) for more information on Testing, etc..... For more information on the test session [click here](#) to email the instructors.



STUDY: 8:00am to 5:00pm

- Thirty Minute Lunch Break -

EXAM SESSION: 5:00pm to 7:00pm



The exam session is a closed session only available to those students who sign up for the class.

### **UNABLE TO PUT UP AN ANTENNA?**

Check out REMOTE HAMS @ <http://remoteHams.com>  
Sign up for an account (it's FREE), download the client software & install it.  
Connect with my station and have some fun!

**Ray—N4GYN**

### **WANT TO KNOW THE CURRENT PROPAGATION?**

Check out VOACAP  
See my web page at [http://n4gyn.com/my\\_remote.html](http://n4gyn.com/my_remote.html) for instructions

### **TI9 DXpedition on Cocos Island = TI/3Z9DX**

February 16-23 — 160 -10 Meters — SSB-CW-RTTY  
See page 93 of the February QST



# What's Happening? (cont'd)

## **The Georgia QSO Party**



### **Georgia QSO Party's 54th Anniversary**

**APRIL 11 - 12, 2015**

**The party is annually, the second full weekend of April.**

**There are two operating periods: 1800Z Saturday until 0359Z Sunday  
and  
1400Z to 2359Z on Sunday.**

**Visit the website for more information about GQP [www.georgiaqsoparty.org](http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org)**

**Go to your local club, and let them know about our QSO Party.**

**Be sure to get on the air in your county.**

**Take a mobile rover run to your close counties and help us get all 159 counties on  
the air again!**

**OBJECTIVE: For amateurs outside of the state of Georgia to make contact with as  
many Phone and/or CW Georgia stations in as many of the 159 Georgia counties,  
as possible.**

**Georgia stations work everyone on Phone, CW, or both modes.**

**The GQP is on 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m, and 6m.**

**Want to sponsor Prizes, Plaques, or Awards? Contact**

**[plaques@georgiaqsoparty.org](mailto:plaques@georgiaqsoparty.org)**

**GQP is sponsored by South East Contest Club, Southeastern DX Club and many  
more.**

## **The Georgia QSO Party**





# GQSO Party 2015

## The Georgia QSO Party has started!

I headed out with Paul, W4KLY, on Saturday morning with a goal of finding an operating position in a relatively lightly counted county. Paul wanted an excuse to try out his new 16ft camper for a couple days. And what better excuse than the GQP. We headed to McDuffie County. There were a couple Corp of Engineering camping sights listed, so that's where we headed. There was a McDonald's just before we reached the Interstate, and that was good for a biscuit and coffee. About an hour and a half down the road we started questioning our GPS. No chance it knew better [than] the operators. So our first wrong turn.



We finally found a Corp site. Not the one we were looking for, but there it was. Turns out it was the second one on our list, so no problem. Of course it's closed until April. But we did go down the path and determine that it really wasn't going to be the best for a Field Day style setup in a 16ft camper. So on to the next site. Closed, but there seemed to be a second entrance. The second entrance took us down to a boat ramp, but we could see what looked like the campground. It would work if it wasn't crowded. So we headed back to the Stone Mountain area where I had left my car. Well, just the other side of the "main"

road this same road was called Ridge Road. Who could pass up Ridge Road when looking for an amateur radio camping site? We passed plenty of large estates. You know the kind with a giant house right in the middle, horse barn, horse trailer or two; long drive and rolling hills. But we didn't go in and ask. We didn't know it, but we were near the end of the road and there was an older house, a couple of pickup trucks, a camper and an outhouse. We decided it was time to go ask someone if they knew a spot that would work. Paul and I slowly pulled up the drive while hoping that we wouldn't run into a shotgun.

We climbed out of the SUV slowly as someone came out of the side door of the house. We started explaining what we were looking for. Paul was easing into the fact that we would be putting the county "on the map". About the time we mentioned Ham Radio, the older gentleman said his father was a Ham and he remembered him using the radios while they were stationed in Germany. We took a deep breath, relaxed a little and continued to explain that we wanted to put McDuffie County on the Ham Radio Map during the QSO Party. He told us there were about 1000 acres out back. Seven hundred were rented out, but the rest was available. He was all for helping us out. There was one catch, however. We couldn't block the drive. We looked around, and Paul will probably setup near the Barn/Garage not far off the drive.



We headed home, took a wrong turn and ended up headed toward Athens. But we did find a McDonald's for lunch. At least the scenery was different.

So now we know we'll have someone in McDuffie County, GA for the Georgia QSO Party.

What's your GQP story?

*Norm,* WA4ZXV

Georgia QSO Party Coordinator





## SOTA - Your First Activation

The first thing you'll want to do is to pick out a summit. Not every hill you see is a qualified SOTA summit. SOTA summits are listed at [the main SOTA site](#).

Pick a hill that's not too far from home. If you're based in the metro Atlanta area, some good candidates for your first activation include:

## Stone Mountain

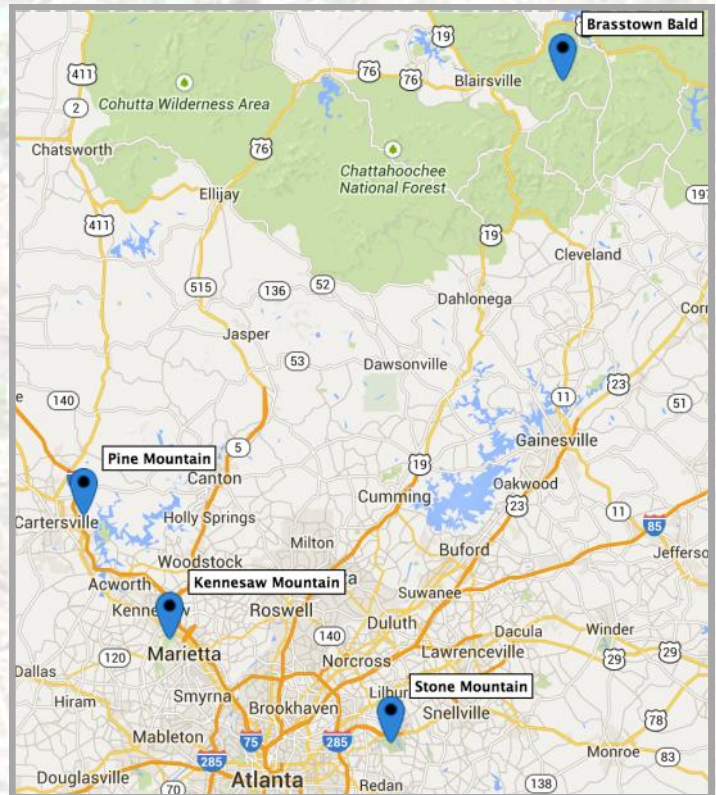
## Vineyard Mountain

## Kennesaw Mountain

- ## Stone Mountain

- ## Brasstown Bald

- ## Read the rules!

Read [General Rules](#)

1. "The method of final access to the summit must be non-motorised."
2. "Operations must not be in, or in the vicinity of a motor vehicle. No part of the station may be connected in any way to the motor vehicle."

The second rule is intended to prevent operation from your truck or car. SOTA is about *portable* operation and not

(Continued on page 8)



# SOTA - Your First Activation

(Continued from page 7)

mobile operation.

While following the rules is necessary to get your points, don't get hung up on memorizing them. Read them. Make a good faith effort to follow them. Review your plan with an experienced activator and debrief with an experienced activator after your activation. If you violate a rule, you don't get your points. That's a disappointment, but nothing worse. Remember, you picked an easy first summit, so you haven't made an epic effort. You'll learn much from your attempt and your next try will be a piece of cake.

You'll need a radio. A portable HF rig is ideal. At a minimum, you'll need something that is light enough to carry, an antenna, plus sufficient battery for 20 minutes.

It is possible to activate via HT, but your QSOs must not be via a repeater. You *can* call people on a repeater, and ask them to meet you on simplex, but your official SOTA contact must be simplex.) If you're using an HT, you'll want to line up some friends to chase you and it helps if they have good antennas, so they can do the "heavy lifting."

You'll need a portable antenna. A resonant dipole is a popular choice for HF -- particularly if you don't have an antenna tuner. With a good ATU, a 35.5 foot "random" wire with a counterpoise is another popular choice. Some operators love a magnetic loop. My personal favorite is an end-fed half-wave. Remember: You'll be operating QRP from a mountain top. RF in the shack will not be a major issue; weight and simple setup are a priority.

Of course, you'll need a paddle and/or a microphone, headphones, etc. Make up a checklist. Check it twice. If you discover you've left something out, add it to your checklist so you don't forget it next time. Here's a [sample checklist](#) you can customize to suit your needs.

Take water, a snack, pencil and paper. Make notes on what went well and what failed. Bring warm clothing. Even in the summer, it is cooler 'up on top' than it is at home.

Before you go, visit [SOTAwatch](#) and post your plans. This tells chasers when and where to look for you.

Once you're set up on the summit, you can call CQ on your favorite frequency. You need four contacts in order to get your points for the summit. They can be contacts with any properly licensed Ham. Your contacts need not be with SOTA chasers and your contacts need not log the QSO in order for you to get your points. (Of course, if they aren't chasers, you can take the opportunity to encourage them to sign up.)

If want to work a pile-up, you want to get spotted on [SOTAwatch](#). Experienced chasers monitor SOTAwatch; when they see an activation, they turn out in force. If you QSO with a chaser, he'll probably post a spot on SOTAwatch. (You can ask him to do so, to be sure.) Once you're spotted, expect a small pile-up in 1-3 minutes.

You can spot yourself. This is easy if you are on a summit with a cell signal. If you have an Internet-enabled device, visit SOTAwatch when you're ready to go on the air and post a spot. If you don't have Internet, but you can make a voice call from the summit, you can call a friend and have him post your spot to SOTAwatch. You can spot yourself via SMS. (See <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-self-spot-sms-usa>.) You can spot yourself via APRS. (See <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-self-spot-aprs>.) If you posted an alert and you use CW, you'll be automatically spotted through the wonders of [RBN](#) and [RBNGate](#).

When you return home, visit <http://sotadata.org.uk/> and record your QSOs. Then visit <http://sotadata.org.uk/activatorlog.aspx> and track your status toward the coveted Mountain Goat award.

See you on the summits! 73 DE K4KPK / Kevin

(Continued on page 14)



# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in February

RONALD KOON (KM4HZP)  
VANCE OAKES (KM4EPX)  
LIGE SIMS (KM4GSM)  
STEVEN WISENBURG (KM4CVU)

New Members: 4

Total Members as of March 1, 2015  
- 299-

Join us for our weekly  
breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays at:

Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

 [\(Directions\)](#) 

The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in March:

---

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
**From All of Us at GARS**

---

Rich Arland (K7SZ)  
Deidra Atkin  
David Bruse (W4DTR)  
Cecil Duncan (KD4ZEM)  
Bruce Fullerton (KM4HIA)  
Jason Hilborn (KD4BGE)  
Jerry Hundley (AA4ER)  
William Kincheloe (KM4DRT)  
Jonathan Kirkland (KM4FMU)  
Jack Mason (KK4ULP)  
Matthew Moore (KM1FDM)  
James (Jay) Robinson (KF4IIV)  
Hayley Shaw (KK4ZJN)  
Robert (Mike) Smith (KK4KHS)  
Jackson Wiggs (KM4GBJ)  
Ed Woodrick (WA4YIH)

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter email towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new email address, new phone number, etc.), please email the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

**Membership Chair:** Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
**Committee Members:** Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY.

# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### GARS NEEDS YOUR HELP

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. We need weekly participation to make our net function and to keep them interesting. We have a very small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week but we need more help.

Out of over 299 members we have only nine primary people that run the net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Mitch - N0DIM
Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL
Ray - N4GYN	Sandy - KJ4DRO
John - WB4QDX	Bill - KK4AUA
Kevin - KK4WOG	

I need 40 people to fill NCS and ANCS positions. The schedule is planned and posted months in advance and is flexible. If your plans change we can and do make adjustments to make it work, and I make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. I also send out reminders each week to let you know you are scheduled for the next Monday night net. In short, we make it simple. All you need to do is show up, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record-keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at the monthly GARS meeting or, send me a message via the [Mentors & Elm-ers](#) page on the web site at [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73’ See you on the Nets!

*Phil McCleary*, N4LNE

Net Manager



**Don’t miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net  
Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm**



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

*Jeff*—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 +, PL 82.5**  
**6m 53.110 - No Tone**  
**70cm 442.100 + PL 100.0**



## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

>>>> NOTE: For more information click the links <<<<

### March 7-8

- **ARRL International Phone DX Contest**
- CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests (Mar 4)
- John Rollins Memorial DX Contest--CW (Mar 4)
- NS Weekly RTTY Sprint (Mar 6)
- NS Weekly Sprint--CW (Mar 6)
- Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon
- Open Ukraine RTTY CHampionship

### April

19 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

### June

13-15 [June VHF](#)

20 [Kids Day](#)

27-28 [Field Day](#)

### July

11-12 [IARU HF World CHampionship](#)

## Amateur Enforcement “Very Much Alive”

A QUOTE FROM QST—February 2015 issue.

From page 86-87:

Former FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, told the Forsythe Amateur Radio Club in Winston-Salem, NC, on November 10 that the FCC is still active in the Amateur Radio enforcement arena, even though it's not always apparent.

“You may not think so, but enforcement is very much alive,” said Hollingsworth, who—although retired—still keeps up with the goings-on at the FCC and with the enforcement activities of his successor, FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith. “You just don’t hear a lot about it, as you used to,” he said, because ham radio nws media report only the “big announcements” these days.

.....

“You only see final actions [now],” he said. “So, you don’t think a lot’s being done, but it’s all behind the scenes, and you don’t know about it.”

Hollingsworth suggested that hams interested in keeping up with enforcement subscribe to the *FCC Daily Digest* or view it on the FCC website. You read these and you get an idea of how busy the FCC is across the board,” he said.

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### Southeast US

#### 03/07/2015 | [Alabama Section Convention \(BirmingHamfest\)](#)

**Location:** Irondale, AL

**Type:** ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

**Sponsor:** BirmingHam ARC

**Website:** <http://W4CUE.com>

#### 03/21/2015 | [Ellijay Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Ellijay, GA

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Ellijay Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.w4hhh.org/fest.php>

#### 05/02/2015 | [Blue Ridge ARS's 56th Annual Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Spartanburg, SC

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://brars.org>

#### 06/06/2015 | [Georgia State Convention \(Atlanta Hamfestival\)](#)

**Location:** Marietta, GA

**Type:** ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

**Sponsor:** Atlanta Radio Club & Kenneshooshee Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.atlantaHamfest.com>

## BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, **Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:  
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex  
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

*We enjoy:*

- ◊ *Camping*
- ◊ *Hiking*
- ◊ *Horseback Riding*
- ◊ *Shooting Sports*

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

**Steve Back, WB2OGY**

Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman

Phone: 770-712-9069

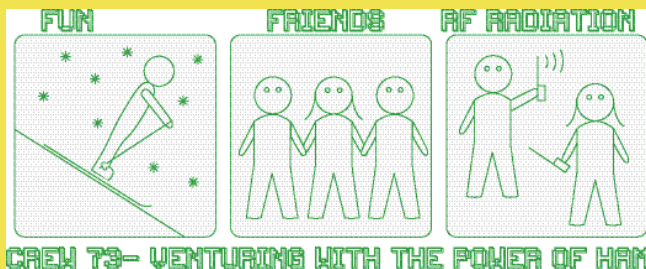
Email: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)

**Jeff Lee, AF4JL**

Venture Crew 73 Advisor

Phone: 678-475-3165

Email: [advisor@venturecrew73.org](mailto:advisor@venturecrew73.org)



## G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

Rick Cobb, N4XYX  
President



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
Vice President



Nick Doemland, AB4CQ  
Secretary



Sid Weaver, N4NQ  
Treasurer



Nick Nickley, N0NCQ  
Program Manager



Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Membership Chair



Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
Ham Exam Team Leader



David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Webmaster, Field Day Chair



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ  
Public Information Officer



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr



Ray Bailey, N4GYN  
GARzette Editor



Jeff Cutchins, AB4HF  
Multimedia Chair



John Ackermann, N8UR  
W4GR Trustee



Eddie Foust, WD4JEM  
Repeater Chair



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
Education Chair



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
WAS-Checker, Historian



Phil McCleary, N4LNE  
Net Manager, ELMER Chair



Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
Technical Advisor



### DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA



David Adcock, KA4KKF



Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV





**APRIL GARS MEETING**

Presentation, will be...

***“Antennas and Contesting “***

By TBD

**GARS Survey for Feb 2015**

I hope everyone had a chance to complete the survey which should have been emailed to each of you. The results are not in at this time, but we hope to be able to present them at this meeting or the next. Nothing earth shattering. Just trying to get the lay of the land. If you have comments on the survey, We'll be glad to hear them. Send an email or give me a call. You can often even find me on the GARS repeater system. I hope to do another survey in a few months, so if you have suggestions, I'm glad to hear them.

This is just another communications tool to help get feedback from the membership. Your Executive committee is anxious to live up to or exceed your expectations.

Thanks for being a member. Thanks for making GARS a great organization.

73, *Norm*, WA4ZXV

and Your Executive Committee.

**GARS Recurring Calendar**

- ◆ Monthly club meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ◆ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ◆ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

- \* Rick, N4XYY, brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- \* First time visitors were recognized and introductions were made. Ticket upgrades were recognized.
- \* Sid, N4NQ, gave the treasurer's report. Voting took place and the treasurer's report was approved.
- \* GARS is on the Amazon Smile program. There is a link on the GARS website for registering for the Smile program.
- \* Karen, KI4HPP, gave the membership report: GARS has 298 members.
- \* Mike, KK4KHS, announced the upcoming programs. The March program will be about ARES.
- \* The following nominations for new officers were made by the nominating committee:
  - President: Rick Cobb, N4XYY
  - Vice President: Mike Weathers, ND4V
  - Treasurer: Sid Weaver, N4NQ
  - Secretary: Nick Doemland, AB4CQ
  - Program Manager: Nick Nikley, N0NCQ
- \* The floor was opened for nominations and no other nominations were made. The members voted and the above listed officers were approved and elected.
- \* The repeater will have to be relocated and GARS is looking for a new site. GARS has a temporary site in Snellville but is looking for a new site. Some services are temporarily out: Echolink, 6 meters, and the remote receivers are down. Also, there is no courtesy tone.
- \* The dog show went well and GARS received many thanks. Another dog show will take place this summer.
- \* There were nine applicants at the last VE session and all 9 applicants passed.
- \* GARS donated \$1,000 to fund a seat at the 2014 Teachers Institute and will be mentioned in the March issue of QST.
- \* GARS is a sponsor of K1N Navassa and GARS' logo appears on the Navassa website.
- \* The Technician HamCram is coming up on March 21st at the Gwinnett Emergency Operation Center. Training is free but there is a \$20 charge which covers the exam fee and cost of lunch. Sign up on the GARS website via Paypal – pre-registration is required.
- \* The GA QSO Party is on April 11th and 12th at Harbins Park. Volunteers are needed to work for a session. There is information on the GARS website and also on [www.georgiaqsoparty.org](http://www.georgiaqsoparty.org).
- \* Satellites in the Park is coming up on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Harbins Park.
- \* Events coming up are the Memorial Day Parade and Field Day.
- \* The Want, Swap, Sell Net on Mondays has been moved to 7:30 p.m.
- \* The Know It All Net on Wednesdays remains at 8:30 p.m. There will be an ARES digital training net on Thursday. ARES meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. This month, the meeting will be a homebrew show.

**BREAK**

- \* Kyle, W4KDA, gave an excellent program on Digital.
- \* Rick presented Kyle with a certificate for giving the program.
- \* Drawings were conducted and prizes awarded.
- \* There were 75 attendees present.
- \* The program concluded at 9:12 p.m.

*Allison Lynch*, KZ3JFY, Secretary

# SOTA - Your First Activation

(Continued from page 8)

## Where can I find out more?

- Official site: <http://sotadata.org.uk/>
- Mailing list: <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/summits>
- K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>  
Email me (K4KPK). My email address is available via <http://www.grz.com/db/K4KPK>.
- Stay tuned. This is a recurring series.

## Bio

K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat, and was the 19th North American to achieve Mountain Goat. His first QSO was on a backpacking trip to a 5300 foot summit with his 12 year-old son. He has more than 120 activations, including Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

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## GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR MARCH 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	3 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm GARS Exec Meeting	4 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	5	6	7 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
8	9 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	10 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Dinner at Flying Machine 7:00pm - 9:00pm GARS Meeting	11 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	12	13	14 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
15	16 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	17	18 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	19	20	21 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
22	23 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	24	25 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	26	27	28 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
29	30 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	31				



## Metro Testing Sessions

*GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.*

### First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)  
VEC: WCARS

Braselton Public Utility Building  
4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA  
Roger Gibson, WB4T  
(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560  
[w4rlg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)  
VEC: WCARS

Hall County EOC  
470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.  
Perry Roper, KO4RD  
(770) 536-3056

### Second Saturday

10:00 AM  
Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center  
13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004  
Ian Kahn, KM4IK  
E-mail: [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

### Second Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL  
8:30 a.m.  
GMC Community Ctr  
5325 Leon St.  
Stone Mountain, GA  
Frank Haynes, KV4SP  
(678) 467-3712

### Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI  
2 pm  
Gwinnett County Fire Station #5  
3001 Old Norcross Road  
Duluth, GA 30096  
Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
Email: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

### Third Saturday

VEC: W5YI  
2 pm (Except December)  
Lifeway Church  
1654 Atlanta Highway #109  
Steve Donellan, N5SMD  
(404) 520-0368  
Email: [n5smd@comcast.net](mailto:n5smd@comcast.net)

(cont. next column)

## Ham Exam Results

We had a very successful and pleasant test session Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2015.

9 applicants tested and all upgraded.

- 4 New Technicians
- 3 Upgraded to General
- 2 Upgraded to Extra

Thanks to the following VE's.

- Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC (Co-CVE)
- Don Bagby, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)
- Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN
- David Bruse, W4DTR, CVE
- Frank Haynes, KV4SP, (Co-CVE)
- Karen Whited, KJ4VQI
- Larry Whited, WB4FGF
- Robert Pursley, WD4KQQ
- Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC
- Harold Prosser, KK1B
- Nick Doemland, AB4CQ

73,

*Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC*

Email: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

GARS VE Website:  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS\\_VE\\_Team/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/)



### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC  
7 pm @ United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  
(770) 942-6466

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech  
VanLeer Elec. Building  
Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.  
See [www.w4aql.com](http://www.w4aql.com)  
Alexander G. Carver  
(404) 894-2936  
[acarver@ece.gatech.edu](mailto:acarver@ece.gatech.edu)

## Metro Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC  
Downtown Marietta  
Fire Station #1, Training Room  
112 Haynes Street  
Marietta, Georgia 30060  
Meeting begins at 7:00pm  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club  
Georgia Red Cross HQ  
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta  
Meeting is at 7:30pm  
Talk In -146.820(-)  
N.E. Georgia ARC  
Commerce Public Library  
Meeting is at 6:30pm  
Talk In - 147.225(+)  
PL 123.0

### Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC  
Room W218  
Van Leer Electrical  
Engineering Bldg.  
Georgia Tech Campus  
Meeting at 7:00pm

### Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
Annistown Road Baptist Church  
Intersection of Annistown Rd &  
Spain Rd  
Stone Mountain  
Dinner at 6:00pm  
Meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club  
Board Room of The  
Shepherd Center at  
2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta  
at 10:00 AM

### Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League  
Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept  
Alpharetta Adult Activity Center  
13450 Cogburn Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30004  
meeting at 7:30pm  
Talk In - 145.47(-)  
For more, go to: <http://www.gars.org/>

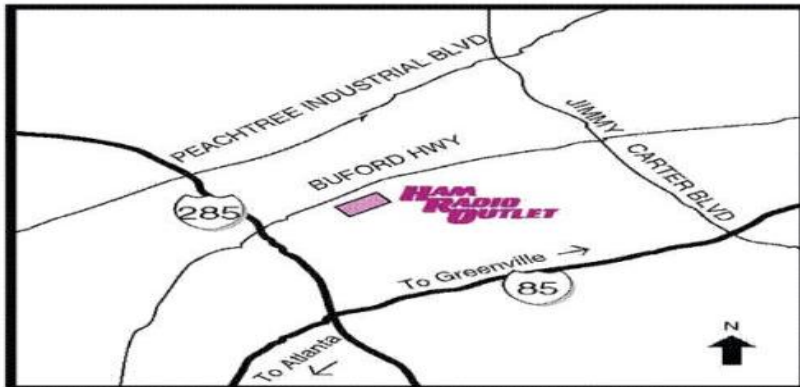
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# HAM RADIO READY!



1915 Oak Wind Ln  
Buford, GA 30519

Offered at \$222,900

GAMLS ID: 7299150  
Oak Wind  
2,603 sqft.  
4 Bedrooms  
2 Full Bathrooms  
1 Half Bathrooms

Hot buy in great school cluster! Home has 47 foot tall Rohn 25G guyed tower, radio room in the basement is wired with two 240 VAC circuits for amplifiers and has an underground buried conduit for cables to the base of the tower. Rotator, mast, antennas, etc. on the tower are negotiable. Lots of square footage on full basement. 2 story foyer/hardwood floors. Kitchen remodeled 4 years ago with new stainless steel appliances including convection oven, granite counters, stained cabinets, custom tile backsplash. Large breakfast area, dining room, separate living room, family room w/gas fireplace. 3 finished rooms in basement as well as huge workshop/storage area. Ham radio tower will be removed by seller prior to close. Great location near Kroger, 5 minutes to Mall of GA.

View this property at: <http://7299150.GeorgiaMLS.com>

Bill Gambrell  
COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BR  
Phone: 678-458-3494  
Office: 770-623-1900  
E-mail: [bill.gambrell@coldwellbankeratlanta.com](mailto:bill.gambrell@coldwellbankeratlanta.com)



Information is provided courtesy of COLDWELL BANKER RESIDENTIAL BR, and is deemed reliable but not guaranteed.

GAMLS ID: 7299150

Oak Wind

2,603 sqft.

4 Bedrooms

2 Full Bathrooms

1 Half Bathrooms

Hot buy in great school cluster! Home has 47 foot tall Rohn 25G guyed tower; radio room in the basement is wired with two 240 VAC circuits for amplifiers and has an underground buried conduit for cables to the base of the tower. Rotator, mast, antennas, etc. on the tower are negotiable. Lots of square footage on full basement. 2 story foyer, hardwood floors. Kitchen remodeled 4 years ago with new stainless steel appliances including convection oven, granite counters, stained cabinets, custom tile backsplash. Large breakfast area, dining room, separate living room, family room w/gas fireplace. 3 finished rooms in basement as well as huge workshop/storage area. Great location near Kroger, 5 minutes to Mall of GA.

## For more information, contact:

James A WorsHam, Jr

E-mail: [w4kxy@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4kxy@bellsouth.net)



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## QST—March 1950

### Highlights:

A Beginner's Four-Tube Superhet Receiver

Incandescent Light Flicker

Eliminating TVI with Low-Pass Filters—Part II

Crystal-Controlled Oscillators

Calibrating a BC-221 Frequency Meter

On the air with Single Sideband

Clamp-Tube Modulation

Adjusting Antenna Coupling in V.H.F. Receivers

